(b) No, Sir,

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Economic agreement with Gulf countries

2977. SHRIMATI S.G.INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) had demanded of the Government to implement a framework agreement of economic cooperation between India and the Member States of Gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of such agreement, Indian exporters have to move their export proceeds to these countries at much higher import duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) ASSOCHAM have suggested that the feasibility of entering into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC) countries, as envisaged in the Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation, may be evaluated.

(c) The extent of duty concessions for exports from India under FTA will be ascertainable only after finalization of the Agreement.

Site offered by Andhra Pradesh Government for holding ITOP exhibition

2978. SHRI S.M.LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has offered site for the establishment of an exhibition site by ITPO in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ITPO has any plans to select a site in the State to organize trade fairs on a regular basis;

(d) if so, the details of the policy to open up new exhibition grounds;and

(e) the steps proposed to encourage ITPO to start exhibition facility in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Presently there is no such proposal.

Investment in Tamil Nadu

2979. SHRI E.M.SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government under new Industrial Policy to attract investment in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) the sectors in which investment has so far been made in this State during the said period, place-wise, together with the amount of investment made in this regard;and

(c) the necessary steps being taken and proposed to be taken by Government for expeditious industrialization in the country especially in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Under the liberalized Industrial Policy, decision to set up industry depends upon the commercial judgement of the entrepreneur which, in turn, is also based on the initiatives taken by the State Government by way of providing basic infrastructural facilities and other incentives. Industrial Development is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supports the efforts by providing support/incentives under its various Scheme, particularly for development of industrially disadvantageous areas. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, three Growth Centres at Erode, Oragadam and Tirunelveli (Gangai Kondan Nanur Block) have been sanctioned. Further, under the Industrial Infrastructure